

# Home & Garden

## Cheating required in order to have a full, colorful spring garden

From the glorious glimpse of the first snowdrop, to the splendid sight of that last tulip, spring bulb flowers are guaranteed to lift the spirit.

They are simple to grow and care for and stunning to look at. Their only drawback seems to be that there are never enough planted in the autumn.

Although it's too late to plant spring-blooming bulbs, you can still enjoy the riot of spring flowers — with a little cheating.

This is an especially good technique with which to enliven the outside of your home if you've decided to sell it in an early spring market.

A word of caution however, some of the larger bulbs can be easily damaged when transplanting.

So rather than risk losing the flowers, just sink the plastic pot into the soil, or a container filled with compost or potting soil. Then, when the flowers have faded, tap the bulbs out of their pots and plant them where you need them the most.

**Avid gardeners plan now for next year's magnificent spring.**

### Instant Color

Though more expensive than bulbs bought loose in the fall, potted bulbs from garden centres are perfect instant gap fillers for bare garden corners.

Or, pack a few pots into containers, baskets, buckets, window boxes or ornamental pots for instant patio or balcony brighteners — no one will know they weren't planted last fall.

### Planting a brilliant spring

**Tip:** From now until mid-June, keep a notebook in which to jot down your favorite bulbs as they flower. Note which part of the garden looks bare in any particular month and plan to brighten it next year.

### Get inspired

For inspiration on which

bulbs to choose, visit gardens, including your neighbors', to see the widest range of bulb flowers possible.

Another handy thing to do is to take photos of any flowers you can't recognize and ask representa-

tives from a good garden centre to identify them.

Try bulbs that are different from the usual. There are literally hundreds from which to choose.

Avid gardeners plan now for next year's magnificent spring.

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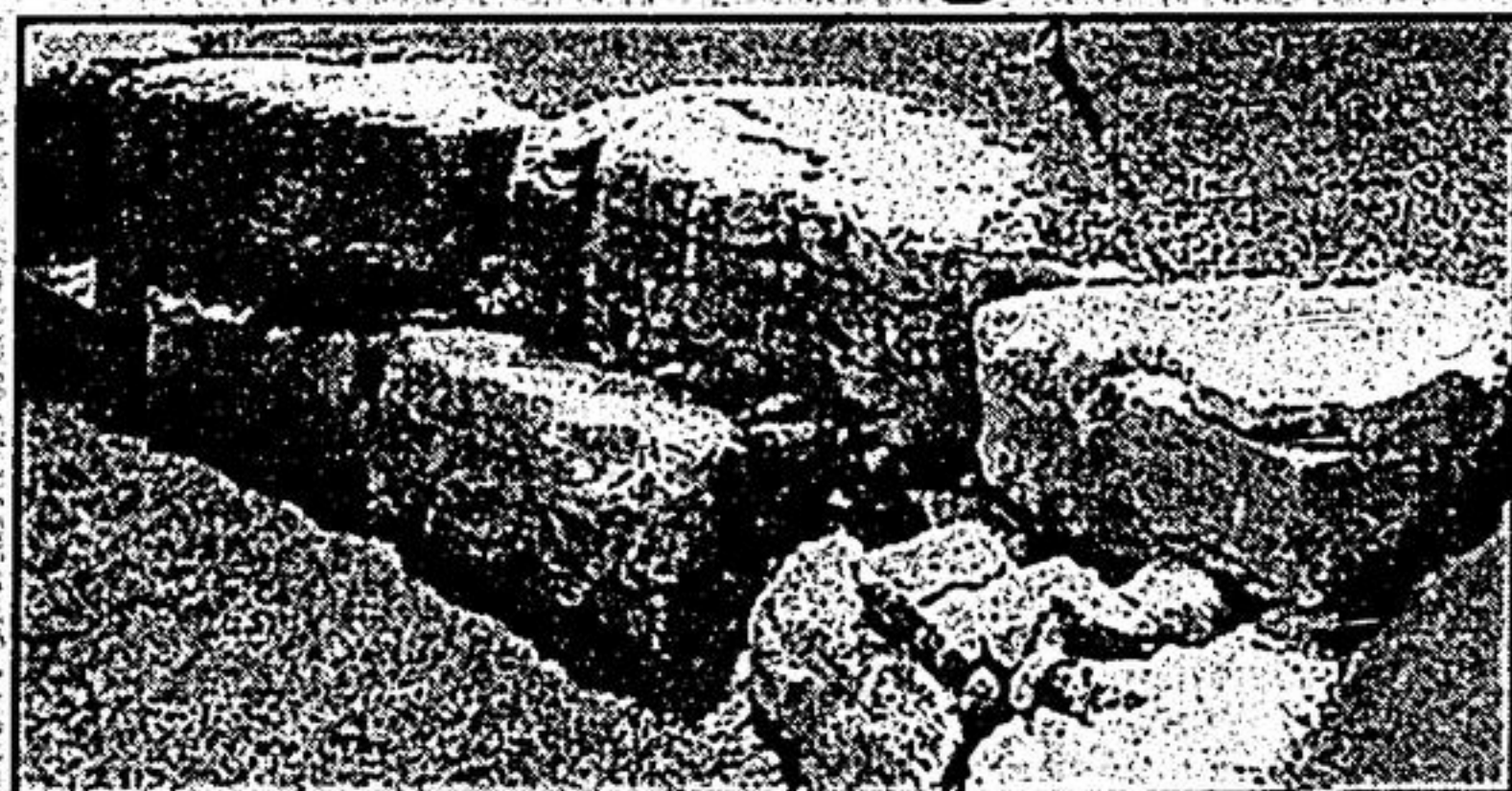
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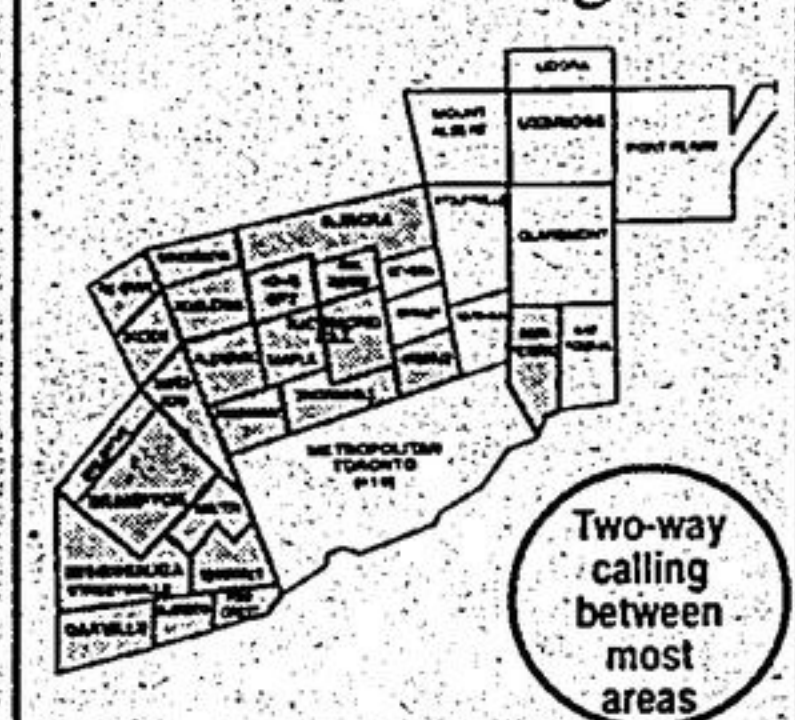


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